

The Editorial Board's "Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Choice" (Dec 16) argues the only way forward for Turkey, and its relationship with the US and wider West, is via politics. This is incomplete.

At the Turkey-US Business Council, we agree it was "unfortunate" sanctions were imposed on Turkey by the State Department. It takes the bilateral relationship in the wrong direction.

But it doesn't have to undermine decades of strong economic ties in the medium and long-term. The best way of fostering of better relationship is not via political means, but trade.

In commerce, there are already deep links: many thousands of US jobs supported by Turkish-owned businesses, and more than \$20 billion in bilateral trade.

In Turkey, the US has a growing market for its LNG and a new manufacturing base.

There are ample opportunities to create jobs and boost economic activity in both countries and we continue to passionately support the vision of raising bilateral trade to \$100 billion.

As the global economy adjusts in the aftermath of the pandemic, all countries should be looking to trade and partnerships as a source for rebuilding prosperity.

Mehmet Ali Yacindag, Chairman, Turkey-US Business Council

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